



Although he is no longer with us, Steve Saefke continues to help the Burnsville Fire Muster!

The Steve Saefke Memorial Fund

has been set up to help fund the Burnsville Fire Muster.

To make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation, make your check payable to The Burnsville Fire Muster and write Steve Saefke on the memo line. A receipt will be mailed to you.

Checks can be mailed to:

Burnsville Fire Muster

PO Box 973

Burnsville MN 55337

Despite his growing cancer Steve Saefke was a tireless advocate for the Burnsville Fire Muster. During the last five years, Steve played a key role in advertising and promotion.

In December of 2008 Steve was awarded the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Business Person of the Year.

Below is the script used that evening.

Good evening! I'm Jim Marchessault, the 2007 Business Person of the Year. It's my great pleasure to be able to introduce to you our 2008 Business Person of the Year!

Let's see how well you know this individual....

Has a dry (very) sense of humor.

Is a wine lover, actually a connoisseur of wines, particularly reds.

Has a very BIG heart for friends.

Is a lover of music, particularly of all things jazz.

Eclectic, voracious reader particular of what some would call "high density" non-fiction.

This person had a band when they were younger where they played that most rare of instruments, the accordion. In addition, this person still plays jazz piano.

For this person, the best evening out would be a few friends at a jazz club enjoying a great red.

Some history...

After graduating from Washburn High School this person went to work for Sears.

This person was acknowledged by their peers as a top-rank merchandiser and business developer. That enabled a great marriage between this person's vocation and avocation in the hardware and building materials area.

This person later went on to work in the corporate offices of a Burnsville company as a toy buyer. This person started the lumber brokerage business at that firm and was responsible for adding over 300 retail lumber stores. This person still consults that business today.

This person loves hunting which became even more satisfying for him when he was introduced to the gentleman's gun dog, the Vizsla, with his last one being the aptly named Champ. This person was active for many years with the Twin Cities Vizsla Club where he was an officer and the "keeper" of the books.

On one trip this person made to northern Minnesota to visit his former boss, the president of that company, this person arrived with his two dogs and a fresh grouse that had been shot on the way. Being the wonderful chef this person is, he prepared a great meal.

This person used this background to become a partner in a consulting firm that helps in the new business development area - he continues to lead this firm

today.

This person has held a neighborhood BBQ for several hundred people for over 20+ years.

This person joined the South Metro SCORE Chapter (Service Corps of Retired Executives – their old name) as a counselor in 1998, and is still an active member. They served as president of the chapter from 2001 to 2005.

Their area of expertise was in marketing, where they taught many classes as a part of the Starting Your Own Business series through Community Education with School districts 191 and 196. This person also taught marketing classes through the University of Minnesota.

He was the catalyst for the initial nomination, and the eventual awards for me as the SBA Minnesota's Business Person of the Year and also for Darlene Miller as the US Chamber Business Person of the year!

In recent years, with his involvement in the Burnsville Fire Muster, this person has re-energized the event with much bigger crowds, better music and better vendors. This person did this with his advertising expertise and enthusiasm.

This person also demonstrated his outstanding volunteerism by coordinating the Burnsville hosted State American Legion Baseball Tournament this past summer. His tremendous skills insured that this was an exemplary event, duplicated by very few communities. His perseverance in planning and execution contributed immensely to the success of this 5 day, well attended, youth gathering.

It is truly an honor for me to introduce this year's Burnsville Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Person of the Year -
Steve Saefke!